While I do not wish to withdraw one single word of what I said yesterday, I regret the temper in which that speech was uttered, and if I have wounded the dignity of the House,—as I have already expressed my request—I hope the Council will efface the memory of yesterday's incident from its mind (*Hear, hear*).

The President's reply.

President.—This gives me an occasion to say a few words regarding the conduct of the Proceedings of this Council.

I am very thankful to Dr. A. R. Menon for the way in which he has given expression to the incident of yesterday. I must tell you that I have got a high regard for his opinions, and I know that what he utters comes out of the sincerity of his conviction. I have always known him as a man of good heart. I have been carefully watching the proceedings of this Council, and I have noticed that at times some feeling is exhibited when the question of appointments enters into our discussion. (*Hear, hear*). It appears to me the only occasion when a sort of communal feeling is exhibited in its utmost form—its most undesirable form. If the Members will not consider it presumptuous on my part to give a word of advice, I would like to tell them all that it is better that no reference is made in this Council to the question of appointments on a communal basis. We have been told, times without number, how these appointments have been made. Only when reference is made to the question of appointments, this communal difference arises. We know, from facts and figures, how the appointments have been made, how many members of each community are now represented in the service, and what is the real state of things. So far as the Government policy is concerned, these appointments are not a monopoly for one particular community—they do not exist for one set of persons. Having regard to the efficiency of the service, having regard to the qualifications of persons who seek the appointment, the Government try to choose the best man available. (*Hear, hear.*) So far as communal representation is concerned, that also iskept in view. But the most important consideration is that we want the best man.

Suppose one community says "We have not got our persons in the service ; you must choose them ", and when I look to the persons of the community, and when I find that there are no qualified persons to fill up the posts and do justice to the work that they are placed in, what am I to do ? Am I to select that person simply because he belongs to that community and should

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some place be given to him? Is not efficiency of service the primary consideration? (*Hear, hear.*) A reference was made to the recent appointments made by the Government in the Judicial Department. Very careful consideration has been bestowed in the matter of making these appointments. Why did we give the appointment to a Muhammadan B. A., B. L., the Registrar-Magistrate's place? Was there any keen agitation for it? No. We found a man in the field with the necessary qualification; I made enquiries about him, and I was satisfied that he would be a person who will do justice to the work, and that he might be tried. Our State is small—we have not to advertise. Persons—more or less qualified—are swimming on the surface, and we have not to dive deep to find out where these persons are, and there is no need of advertising or inviting applications. I can count them on my fingers' ends. That is the real situation.

I am really sorry that one Member, during the course of the discussion, referred to what is called a 'caste-Government.' This is not a caste-Government at all. It is a Government of the people, in the sense that we have regard to the interests of all communities alike. (*Hear, hear.*)

Of course, I wanted to say a few words in respect of these matters at the time of the closing of the General Discussion on the Budget, but we passed the time-limit, and I could not do it then. Dr. Ravunni Menon's statement has now given me an opportunity to refer to this. Of course, I knew, as a matter of fact, that sometimes we display too much feeling in our utterances; it could not be helped; it is human weakness. But, in the interests of the dignity of this Council, in the interests of the usefulness of this Council, in the interests of the honour of this Council, in the interests of the prestige of this Council, Members will, as far as possible, try to control their temper and be moderate in their language. And while I welcome utterances presented in as forcible and as free a manner, I strongly object to these utterances being swayed by considerations of emotions. With these few words, I say that I am very sincerely thankful to you, Dr. Ravunni Menon, for this expression; I may say that I never misunderstand you. Of course, I knew that at times you are not able to control yourself. All that you said yesterday was out of sincere conviction, and I have no reason to misunderstand you.

But I find at times that the temper of the House passing beyond the medium line, and I was afraid whether, during the one year of our existence, it would be said by the outside world

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that in the Cochin Legislative Council they are carrying on the deliberations, not for purposes useful to the interests of the people but for purposes quite foreign and detrimental to the interests of the people. I was seriously apprehensive that the honour of this Council, the dignity of this Council, was being impaired. I am very particular that it should not be said of our Council that it is not working on useful lines. This is a time when requests are made for more constitutional reforms. If, within one year of our existence, we are not able to get on with the proceedings of this Council satisfactorily, where is our right for demanding further constitutional reforms? (*Hear, hear.*) We must gradually work up to this institution. Constitutional reform is, I have read in works, I have heard eminent persons say, a plant of very slow and steady growth. You cannot expect it to become a fully developed tree in the course of a year or even a decade. It must gradually come up in the natural course of things. I do not really know whether we have justified the powers already conferred on us, I mean, to the extent to which His Highness has been pleased to give us this power.

Another point on which I wish to lay emphasis in this connection is that it should not be supposed that here there is a cleavage, that is to say, that the non-official Members alone are the representatives of the people. Of course, we, the officials, are here to look after the interests of the people equally well. We, the officials, are equally the representatives of the people; and the Government, it must be understood, is always responsible for the welfare of the people. (*Hear, hear.*) And you may take it from me that His Highness, our gracious Maharaja, whose one absorbing thought is always the interest and welfare of his royal and beloved subjects, has issued strict injunctions that the paramount duty of the officers is to promote their interest. (*Hear, hear.*) We shall not be doing our duty, if we are swayed by personal considerations in the matter of discharging our several duties.

So far as our Departmental Heads are concerned, I have no reason to think that they are not guided by the interests of the people. I know, in the course of my experience with them during this one year, that they are always having the interests of the people at heart, and that they always try to discharge their duties to the utmost satisfaction. (*Hear, hear.*) Let me say that I do not think you can have a more loyal, more earnest, more disinterested, more honest set of officers in the service as we have now in the Cochin service. (*Hear, hear.*) That is my honest conviction, and I want all of you to make a note of this.

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I do not misunderstand a few Members who have chosen to give me some advice during the course of the general discussion. Mr. Kunjunni Raja said that I was a son of the soil (I take pride in that), but that I was carrying on the routine administration only, and that I have not got imaginative power, and I have not got schemes and all that sort of thing. I will now count a dozen schemes, schemes on which the former Diwans spent much time, labour and attention. Those schemes are ready at hand. The present Diwan has not to seek for schemes anywhere else or to shut himself up in his study and work out schemes. He has only to take them up one by one and to give effect to them. But we have to see the exact condition of our finance: and from our past failures, we have to take particular precaution before launching ourselves into any fresh schemes. The Chief Engineer has placed before us a modest scheme, and I want to see how this will work. I take the advice in the spirit in which it has been given, but it must not be supposed that matters dealt with in the advice are matters new to me. I have grown grey in the service, and I do not think that I really stand in need of any advice. I always thought that, before I became the Diwan, I knew a good deal of the State, and prided myself that I knew every inch of the Cochin State. But soon after I assumed the Diwanship, I found that my experience and knowledge were limited. There are very many things that I had to learn, and then, I consoled myself with the reflection that we always live to learn, and that the longer we live, the greater the consciousness that we have yet to learn more. Such being the state of things, let us make an honest endeavour to learn in the right way, and let us pursue our course in such a way that it may be said of us that the Cochin Council is by all means a Council carrying on its deliberations in a dignified way, in a way that is useful to the people at large. (*Hear, hear.*) If we achieve this result, I think we have justified our existence in this Council. As regards discussion of communal questions, I think there are platforms outside, and, so long as I retain this place of honour here as President, I will *not* allow any discussion to be carried on, concerning communal matters or appointments based on communal considerations. (*Hear, hear.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Development Departments in the State and representation in the Economic Development Committee.

81. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention—

(a) the various development departments in the State;

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